



DEVILS' ADVOCATE

WINTER 2017

A FREE PUBLICATION FROM
Healthy futures for arid lands and people
ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
www.alec.org.au

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The Devils Advocate is the quarterly newsletter of the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

The deadline for submissions for the next Spring edition is Monday 17th July.

Articles, pictures, poetry, letters, welcome.
Email communications@alec.org.au

All opinions expressed within Devils Advocate are those of the author alone, unless explicitly expressed.

The Devils Advocate is edited and designed by Nicole Pietsch, ALEC's Communications and Campaigns Manager. It is printed on 100% recycled paper.

Front image by Peachy, Back image by Esther

The Arid Lands Environment Centre acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional owners, both past and present, of this region.

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**Arid
Lands
Environment
Centre**

ALEC DIRECTORS' WELCOME

G'day folks and welcome to the winter edition of the Arid Lands Environment Centre's Devil's Advocate. We've got a bumper edition for you here which is sure to get you fired up for an action packed year ahead. There are so many issues, actions and initiatives that ALEC is engaged with across Australia's arid lands. Thankfully we are able to welcome three new staff members to the ALEC team to help us do it

Alex Read has moved to Alice Springs to become ALEC's Policy Officer. Alex dived straight into the role accompanying me in presenting to the Fracking Inquiry hearing within his first hour. He has since made submissions on the Tellus Salt and Waste Storage project, Economic Summits and the Strategic Indigenous Reserves for water, he is currently working on the Fracking Inquiry and learning quickly about the landscape here, both in the policy and natural worlds.

Laurie May has joined the team as the Community Outreach and Engagement Officer. Laurie is a well-known poet and organiser around town. Laurie has jumped straight in organising an annual ALEC Workshop series, getting our systems in place to support volunteers and getting her teeth into the EcoFair.

Jesse Hancock has just arrived bringing his substantial organising experience to the Frack Free Alliance Coordinator role. Jesse will be extending engagement with the growing numbers of people concerned about fracking and building a community of support for the campaign to ban fracking .

It's been a busy year with the campaign to stop the Northern Gas Pipeline ramping up alongside the fracking inquiry hearings across the NT. ALEC has been heavily engaged in raising awareness of the risks of the pipeline to the environment both as a project and as an

enabling piece of infrastructure to support fracking. Groups are organizing interstate to support the #NoNTPL campaign.



Meanwhile, the EIS for the Tellus Chandler Salt Mine and Permanent (Chemical) Waste Storage project was open for comment – ALEC made a submission and also worked to support the community of Titjikala understanding the nature of the storage facility, the plans for toxic waste storage and the permanence of 'geological time'. The community has since made a submission to the EPA. ALEC has been asked to present to a wider audience and will be doing so in coming weeks.

ALEC continues to be widely represented across a variety of policy committees, Boards and Steering Committees – weighing into the challenges and opportunities for sustainable development in Central Australia. ALEC has recently called for a Decarbonisation Plan for the NT to ensure our economic development mitigates our impacts on the climate and helps us adapt to its changes here.

Through coordinating the Ten Deserts, ALEC is supported a Southern Deserts on-country ranger workshop in Ilkurlka (WA) in June – 835km east of Kalgoorlie, 1100km SW from Alice. 80 indigenous land managers and a number of rangers and aspiring rangers shared essential skills and knowledge.

The Ten Deserts is also playing a role in supporting a substantial project definition that will deliver impact across the desert country through



supporting indigenous rangers and broader collaborations. Very exciting, though lot's of work to do.

Well, that's a snapshot from the frontline for environmental protection in the arid lands. In a moment of reflection as I enter my tenth year at the helm of ALEC, I want to thank everyone who has supported or engaged with ALEC over the years. It's been tough at times, but we have done it – together.

As we exit the warmest March on record, 7C above the average in Alice Springs with the Great Barrier Reef bleaching possibly terminally and the 45th president recklessly destroying decades old environmental protections in the US – we have to think ourselves lucky. We live in this beautiful part of the world with a caring and compassionate community. We have a responsibility to look after it.

Enjoy the read and thanks for tuning in.

Jimmy Cocking
ALEC Director



Southern Deserts Rangers Shine

As people settle in back at home from the inaugural Southern Deserts Ranger Forum held at Ilkurlka in the Spinifex lands, approximately 900 km east of Kalgoorlie, Western Australia - all participants are reflecting on a highly successful and inspiring event.

The event attracted more than 85 people from across Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory – 60 of whom were

indigenous rangers. Collectively the ranger groups in attendance manage an area of 1.2 million square kilometres across Western Australia and South Australia.

They included:

- Spinifex Land Management rangers (Tjuntjuntjara, WA)
- Maralinga Tjarutja rangers (Oak Valley, SA)
- APY Lands rangers (various communities, SA)
- Ngadju Rangers (Norseman, WA)
- Birriliburu (Wiluna Martu, Wiluna, WA)



- Ngaanyatjara Rangers (Blackstone, Warburton, Warakurna, WA)
- Yalata Rangers (Yalata, SA)
- Goldfields Land & Sea Council rangers (Kalgoorlie)

Other participating organisations included Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management (SA), Rangelands NRM (WA), Parks SA, NG Media and Morningstar training.

The highlights included:

- Welcome to Country by Spinifex Elders
- Ranger stories – sharing experience and knowledge
- Managing camels – diverse approaches
- Waterholes – new and old ways of managing them
- Ranger Coordinator meeting
- Men's cultural activities
- Cultural exchanges
- Rifle safety
- Tourism management and compliance
- Technology engagement - using drones and other tools to monitor threatened species and record data
- Soft skills – presentation, increased public speaking confidence and networking

'It was a fantastic week', said Ten Deserts Coordinator, Jimmy Cocking, also Director of the Arid Lands Environment Centre. 'The rangers were engaged in a variety of knowledge areas including management of feral camels, tourists and buffel grass. It really hit the mark, the flexible program enabled cultural activities, soft skills to be developed and a much needed ranger coordinator meeting.'

'We are the lucky country, lucky that we have the people with the knowledge and the skills given opportunities to look after this desert country on all of our behalf. Hopefully they will be given the certainty and resources needed to continue this important job into the foreseeable future.'

The inaugural Southern Deserts Ranger Forum was organised by Pila Nguru, Spinifex Land Management with the support of the Indigenous Desert Alliance, Ten Deserts Initiative with funding provided by the WA Government, and sponsorship by AngloAshantiGold. Indigenous Ranger Programs and Indigenous Protected Areas are supported by the Australian Government.

Spinifex rangers said:

Ethan Hansen- 'It was great showing them where we come from and catching up with other rangers'.

Scott Baird- 'It was a great experience and it was good to see other rangers doing work for the same reasons'.

For the duration of the event a cloud was hanging over the funding for the hosts, Spinifex Land Management. But with the advocacy and support of other groups and local member for O'Connor, Rick Wilson - Pila Nguru, Spinifex Rangers were told on Monday that they had funding certainty into the future.



Jimmy Cocking
Ten Deserts Coordinator



2017: ALEC'S PRIORITIES— CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

No new fossil fuel projects and infrastructure

Globally if we are to have a chance of combating climate change, 80% of known fossil fuel reserves must stay in the ground. This means a policy of no new fossil fuel projects or infrastructure, and abandoning some existing projects. ALEC will be actively campaigning against any new fossil fuel projects in the NT.

In 2017 ALEC will be working on this through:

- Making submissions to the Fracking Inquiry
- Lobbying for and working towards an NT Decarbonisation Plan
- Working with local, state and national organisations to transition our energy system and economy away from fossil fuels

No Fracking Pipeline

ALEC is staunchly opposed to the proposed Jemena Northern Gas Pipeline (NGP). Despite assertions that the pipeline is being built to transport an oversupply of conventional gas the stated justification for the Jemena project is to “stimulate the development of the Northern Territory through increased gas exploration and production”. This ‘increased exploration and production’ is unconventional gas fields and fracked gas and ALEC is part of an alliance of indigenous, environmental and community groups opposing this development.

In 2017 ALEC will be working on this through:

- Raise awareness of the long-term implications of opening the NT up to fracking for export gas
- Working with local groups to raise awareness and organise opposition to pipeline

- Working with interstate, national and international groups to expand the campaign beyond the NT

Banning unconventional gas production and fracking

85% of the Territory is under application for exploration of petroleum and gas. A moratorium initiated by the NT Government is in place on fracking whilst another fracking inquiry is undertaken. The threats to groundwater and industrialisation of the landscape remain until there is a complete ban on fracking.

In 2017 ALEC will be working on this through:

- Advocating for a ban on fracking
- Raising awareness of the risks of fracking to the climate and groundwater
- Making submissions to the Fracking Inquiry calling for a ban on fracking
- Working with other groups and sectors to



A crowd of concerned citizens joined Friends of the Earth and Quit Coal out the front of Jemena in Melbourne to protest the Federal approval of the 622km Northern Gas Pipeline from Tennant Creek to Mt Isa.

support community organising to ban fracking in the NT

Repowering Alice Springs to 100% renewable energy

Alice Springs has some of the highest solar potential in the world. ALEC is continuing to lead discussions with key agencies in pushing for a solar powered future for the region. ALEC is also supporting the community group RePower Alice Springs to advocate for 100% solar power by 2030.

In 2017 ALEC will be working on this through:

- Continuing to support the growth of RePower Alice Springs
- Working with the Alice Springs Town Council on developing a Climate Action Plan
- Lobbying for a 100% renewable energy powered central Australia by 2030.

Building collaboration across the Ten Deserts

ALEC's work on the Ten Deserts initiative continues to support the protection of the natural and cultural values of our vast and relatively intact desert country. In 2017, ALEC will be increasing its work in supporting a very large grant funded opportunity to build capability and capacity of indigenous rangers engaged in managing desert country.

In 2017 ALEC will be working on this through:

- Coordinating the Ten Deserts Network and Buffel Free Great Victoria Desert
- Organising an on-country Southern Deserts Ranger Workshop in Ilkurlka in June supporting Spinifex Land Management and the Indigenous Desert Alliance
- Working collaboratively on a large project application to support environmental resilience across the arid lands.

Strengthening environmental protection laws

The Northern Territory has the weakest environmental laws in Australia. ALEC will be

engaging in the NT Government's environmental regulatory reform process, and advocating for a stronger, independent Environment Protection Authority.

In 2017 ALEC will be working on this through:

- Employing a Policy Officer to make submissions on projects and issues of environmental protection
- Working to support stronger environmental protection regulations in the NT through engaging with government processes and ensuring election promises are upheld.

Increasing local food resilience

Through Food For Alice and the Alice Springs Community Garden ALEC will be continuing to build local food resilience via increasing local food production, supporting a weekly local produce market, and delivering workshops on food production in arid Australia.

In 2017 ALEC will be working on this through:

- Supporting the on-going operations and development at the Alice Springs Community Garden
- Maintaining and growing the weekly Food for Alice stall
- Working to replicate successful food garden projects for communities around Alice Springs

Developing Arid Edge Environmental Services

ALEC will continue to develop its social enterprise Arid Edge Environmental Services to deliver landscape design and management services, garden tune-ups, waste and energy audits, and remote food gardens and nutrition programs.

In 2017 ALEC will be working on this through:

- Supporting the growth of the AEES team to address demand of services
- Maintain a strategic focus to ensure projects not only make returns to ALEC but work towards our vision of 'healthy futures for arid



- lands and people’
- Supporting the diversification of the program and building extra capability in our workforce

Supporting the community to participate in the protection of our environment and climate adaptation

An informed and actively engaged community is the best hope we have at mitigating the full impacts of climate change.

In 2017 ALEC will be working on this through:

- Employing a Science Engagement Officer to increase the scientific literacy of the community through better understanding of science

- Employing a Community Outreach and Engagement Officer to increase ALEC’s engagement with the community from volunteering opportunities to building our member and donor base
- Organising a diverse program of workshops, events, information nights, meetings and other opportunities for people to learn, organise and make a difference.

Want to know more:

Sign up and stay connected

http://www.alec.org.au/stay_connected

Jimmy Cocking

New ALEC long T-shirts, singlets and hoodies in stock!



\$20



\$25



\$50

Email community@alec.org.au for more information on sizes, colours and how to make an order!



Northern Territory Economic Plan Must Incorporate Action on Climate Change

The Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) has serious concerns the draft Strategic Economic Framework and Infrastructure Plan currently being developed by the Northern Territory Government is not addressing climate change and moving to a low-carbon economy.

Whilst ALEC welcomes the engagement of the community in the Territory Economic Summits and commends the Gunner Government for this approach, the current plan looks set to increase carbon emissions considerably.

ALEC has concerns that there is a lack of analysis of global trends in mitigating climate change influencing this economic framework. ALEC is concerned that climate change has received minimal consideration in the current drafts of the documents and that the plan will require further urgent assessment through a carbon emission and climate vulnerability lens.

“In a world with a changing climate, the model of infinite economic growth must be questioned. Whilst bringing prosperity (to some) and improvements in living standards, this model of infinite economic growth has also brought about the biggest threat to that prosperity – climate change. We just have to look at the flooded Eastern Seaboard to see what increased extreme weather events look like – and also examine the economic cost of that,” said Jimmy Cocking, Director of the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

“Climate change is already having impacts here in the Territory, be it mass mangrove deaths in the Gulf of Carpentaria, changing rainfall patterns as a result of a warming Indian Ocean or the fact that March 2017 was 7 degrees hotter than average in Alice Springs. Climate Change is real and it is happening now and any future economic

plan has to address moving to a low carbon economy,” said Mr Cocking.

“ALEC recommends that the NT Government develop a Decarbonisation Plan to assist the NT to reach zero net emissions by 2050. A decarbonisation plan will provide a structured process for decision-making when considering which industries, projects and infrastructure will be required and supported,” said Mr Cocking.

Key Priorities identified in the ALEC Submission to the Draft Strategic NT Economic Framework and Infrastructure Plan

- Develop a Northern Territory Decarbonisation Plan - Towards zero emissions in 2050
- Decouple economic development from greenhouse gas emissions and unsustainable industries.
- Reframe the need to reduce emissions as an economic opportunity for significant development in resilient growth industries.
- Understand climate change as a multiplier of vulnerability and uncertainty across all sectors.
- Ensuring economic imperatives for growth remain connected to measures of social and cultural wellbeing and ecological sustainability.
- Climate change adaptation and resilience should be principles guiding infrastructure development.

Public submissions to the Territory Economic Growth Plan have closed, however ALEC urges all Territorians who are concerned about climate change to write to Chief Minister Gunner and Treasurer Nicole Manison to demand that the NT Government Economic Growth Plan include actions to shift to a low carbon economy.

chief.minister@nt.gov.au
Minister.manison@nt.gov.au

A PIPELINE TO NOWHERE...

In November 2014, Chief Minister Adam Giles announced that tenders were going out for a pipeline to connect Northern Territory gas to the east coast of Australia.

In November 2015, Chief Minister Giles stood with Paul Adams from Jemena (60% China State Grid, 40% Singapore Power – state-owned companies), as the company was awarded the right to proceed with its Northern Gas Pipeline proposal.

The plan to connect Tennant Creek and Mt Isa with a 14 inch pipeline to transport Blacktip gas, previously destined for Gove and Nhulunbuy, to the Incitec Pivot fertiliser and explosives making plant near Mt Isa, helping them save \$55M per year while providing a modest increase in government coffers after what would be an expensive separation of Power Water Corporation.

The Environmental Impact Statement was available for comment in August 2016, with a Supplementary released in November. In December, the company announced it had agreement from all of the Aboriginal groups in the area to proceed and the project would begin construction in April 2017.

Heavy summer rains, including a 1 in 50 year flood event in Tennant Creek soaked the Barkly in early January. Knowing the boom and bust of ecological systems in response to rain, ALEC called for the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation unit to consider the impacts of this on the project and the threatened species in the path of the pipeline and associated land clearing.

A stay was put for 35 days as the assessment of the EIS was considered. In the meantime, the NTEPA released its assessment of the

project and with some minor conditions including the requirement that no permanent or semi-permanent waterholes are impacted in the major creeks and rivers – it recommended the project be approved.

The Federal Environment Department gave its approval in March with very limited provisions. The NT Environment Minister Lauren Moss did what no Environment Minister has done before, raise issues contrary to the NTEPA recommendations, which included the requirement for environmental management plans to be provided publicly and traffic impact and weed management plans be submitted to the department, prior to conducting any work.

It is truly refreshing to see an Environment Minister actually speak up for the environment. Despite this, the land clearing permits have been approved and the approval from NT Primary Industries and Resources Minister, Ken Vowles has now occurred.

ALEC is opposed to this project because we cannot support the development of infrastructure that is intended to open the NT up to fracking.



Pipeline has arrived and was being stockpiled in Tennant Creek before the project was approved.

Our climate can't take it and nor can our aquifers.

Thankfully, more and more people are becoming aware of the issue. While Jemena stockpiled hundreds of kilometres of pipeline north of Tennant Creek, people in Melbourne and Sydney have been standing up against the project at Jemena's Melbourne headquarters and Sydney office.

People are waking up to the perpetual lies of the gas industry to justify fracking for export profits, that is the real reason for the 'gas crisis' in Australia – it is about gas companies supplying overseas contracts first and leaving Australia's gas supply and electricity market expensive and vulnerable. Rather than hooking the NT up to

the export vacuum and threaten our aquifers and climate, ALEC is calling for a ban on fracking and the end to the 'white elephant' that is the Northern Gas Pipeline.

Whilst the pipeline is now approved and construction is imminent, we will continue to stand up against fracking and fossil fuel infrastructure.

Join the campaign:

#NoNTPL

#banfracking

#waterislife

http://www.alec.org.au/don_t_frack_the_outback

Jimmy Cocking

Fracking's Frontier Politics: The Northern Territory At An Energy Crossroads

<https://newmatilda.com/2017/03/19/frackings-frontier-politics-the-northern-territory-at-energy-crossroads/>

The Northern Territory has been in the spotlight as a target for outrage over our recently implemented moratorium on gas fracking. Apparently in doing so the Territory has overlooked the important role it could play in responding to the East Coast gas market crunch... by standing aside while the gas industry fracks roughly 85 per cent of it.

As the results of a gas industry plan to raise record profits by creating a domestic supply crisis have begun to bite consumers, amid price gouging and threats of impending blackouts, our 'innovation' Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull believes he has found a solution for more gas.

A few weeks ago Turnbull gathered the CEOs of Australia's biggest gas companies together for a stern talking to.

The gas giants are predictably railing against a simple domestic gas reservation policy that could

harm their profits. In return Turnbull is continuing to pick on easy targets, blame shifting onto the States and Territories for restricting supply. With industry encouragement, the Federal Government is eyeing off the Northern Territory's untapped shale gas reserves, calling for the need to lift that 'silly' fracking moratorium and get to work on a planned export pipeline to get all that gas to market.

But new gasfields in the Territory will do nothing to alleviate the industry's orchestrated East Coast market chaos now putting thousands of jobs, businesses and households at risk.

The gas industry has made clear it has no interest in providing gas at prices affordable to those places struggling to heat homes and run businesses. The same companies who colluded to treble the domestic gas price in recent years will, in the absence of Federal Government intervention, happily continue to sell to whoever



will pay the highest price.

Sure, some might argue the simple ‘increase supply’ solutions championed by Turnbull are just more of the same policy prescription that got the East Coast gas market into such a mess, but 10 points for the guy just trying to please his big political donors.

New gasfields no solution to East Coast crisis

The new Gunner Labor Government rolls out the first round of community consultations this month as part of its Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing. It faces its first important test of legitimacy on its promise to restore trust and transparency on an issue paramount to its election success. Territory communities have made clear that they consider the prospect of fracking gasfields a major threat to their land, water and many livelihoods.

The Territory’s powerful pastoral sector has broken ranks with the Country Liberal Party to call for the right to say no to invasive mining, while Indigenous and non-Indigenous landholders and communities have joined forces to rally, door-knock their neighbours and declare whole regions off-limits to gas fracking.

The Inquiry promised a clear-eyed scientific assessment of the risks of unconventional gasfields. Yet the end of 2017 deadline to report on the far-reaching terms of reference means the scientific panel, chaired by Justice Rachel Pepper, is likely to be just scratching the surface of the industry’s problems.

This rushed timeframe risks being further undermined by a decision expected within weeks on whether to approve the Northern Gas Pipeline, a 622km project that would connect Territory gas to Australia’s East Coast for the first time.

Labelled ‘nation building’ by its architect, former Chief Minister Adam Giles, whose ‘frack the lot’ legacy contributed to his government’s resounding defeat at last year’s election, the pipeline project has been fast-tracked through assessments at breakneck speed.

But could the project, once hailed as the economic panacea for a flailing Territory economy, actually be its undoing?

When asked whether the Northern Gas Pipeline would expose the Territory to the same price hikes and supply crunch currently crippling the East Coast gas market, Chief Minister Gunner insisted the Territory could sell its excess supply of gas to underpin a new export market.

But the project’s proponent Jemena, jointly owned by the Chinese and Singaporean governments, is more upfront about its reliance on new supplies of gas.

In its Environmental Impact Statement Jemena lists the project purpose is to ‘stimulate the development of the Northern Territory through increased gas exploration and production’. It has



previously boasted about the pipeline’s ability to drive the development of new onshore (read: fracking) gasfields.

To the business press, Jemena is ambitious about the pipeline’s export potential. Executive General Manager of Business Development Antoon Boey told an industry convention in August, “This is the first step of a much larger picture and we’re keen to see more incentives for upstream developers to get on and develop gas, which would enable us to make an expansion of the pipeline, or even an extension of it down into the big demand centres of Curtis Island.”

Likely the promise of the East Coast gas market, where domestic customers are now forced to pay three times pre-export capacity prices, is appealing. In Jemena’s rush to get gas flowing thousands of lengths of pipe are starting to be stockpiled in Tennant Creek. This despite the fact the inquiry into hydraulic fracturing, environmental assessments and land access negotiations are still underway.

But this high stakes risk-taking backfired spectacularly this month when Jemena was

forced to announce it had not secured agreement from two critical Aboriginal Land Trusts along the pipeline route, going back on public claims it made in December 2016.

Representatives of the Waramungu and Wakaya Land Trusts claim the company lied about the project’s reliance on fracked gas during consultation meetings to assuage Traditional Owner’s concerns. The Wakaya people have previously called the land access negotiation process a sham and walked out of consultations after bullying by the pipeline company.

Dianne Stokes from the Waramungu Land Trust said, “The company told us during consultations that the pipeline was not related to fracking, but we feel Jemena is speaking with a forked tongue. Jemena are keeping landowners in the dark to silence concerns about fracking while elsewhere promoting its plans to transport unconventional gas.”

Max Priest from the Wakaya Last Trust issued a statement calling on the NT Government to implement a fracking ban to guarantee the pipeline project would not result in pressure for new gasfields.

“We said numerous times that we do not want anything to do with fracking, as the impact it has on the environment would be devastating both for our water, community, animals and landscape.

“We want the NT Government to start listening us, and deal with the concerns that are being raised about this pipeline, not continue ignoring our people.” The groups have challenged the Land Council’s authority to consent to the project on their behalf, forcing Jemena to delay its stated April project start date indefinitely and re-tender major construction contracts.

While Waramungu and Wakaya opposition to





the pipeline transporting fracked gas may not be enough to stop the project, all Territorians have an interest in calling on the Chief Minister to abandon the proposal. Without a guarantee of a permanent ban, the pipeline will act as a market driver posing a real and present danger to any community targeted for fracking gasfields.

85 per cent of the Territory is under application for shale gas exploration permits including pastoral, rural and remote landholdings and waterways, iconic tourism icons like the Mataranka thermal springs, and wholly surrounding Uluru and Kata Tjuta National Park.

For these places the risk is that the pipeline could suddenly make development of new fracking gasfields economic to exploit. It's a source of major concern to communities who less than a year ago voted overwhelming for a moratorium on fracking.

If the Chief Minister is to be taken at his word, then any approval of the pipeline during its own fracking inquiry's community consultation phase would be a significant undermining of these commitments.

If regional and remote community consultations scheduled this week go the way of the urban hearings from Alice Springs to Darwin, where overwhelming support for a Territory-wide fracking ban has been demonstrated, the Gunner Government will have a hard time explaining to voters why it has offered support to a project designed primarily to drive exports of new fracked gas.

The good news is that the NT Government is not bereft of vision in the energy policy space. Its Roadmap to Renewables Inquiry, currently underway, offers a pathway to achieving a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. In sharp contrast to the high-risk and low return nature of a fracked gas export industry, its renewables policy enjoys broad support for the potential to

bring clean energy to our regional and remote areas and reduce electricity prices while creating local, skilled employment. While at the same time making good on its commitments for critical climate action.

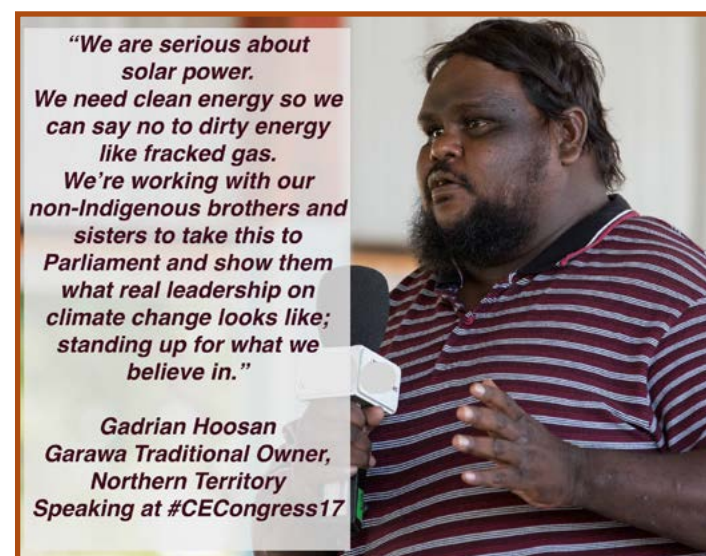
Turnbull is playing desperate politics to deflect blame from the Federal Government's role in allowing the gas industry to ramp up exports and manufacture a domestic supply crisis. Yet the Gunner Government does us no favours by pandering to the gas industry and their pipe dreams.

The choice for our Chief Minister is clear. He could give a green light to the Northern Gas Pipeline and expose the Territory to the type of price chaos that has marked the East Coast's mistaken foray into exports, while locking us into decades of dirty gasfields.

Or, he could stand with the thousands of ordinary Territorians calling for a fracking ban to safeguard our future.

Whichever way he moves one thing is certain, a growing movement against fracking will ensure his government is held to account

Lauren Mellor

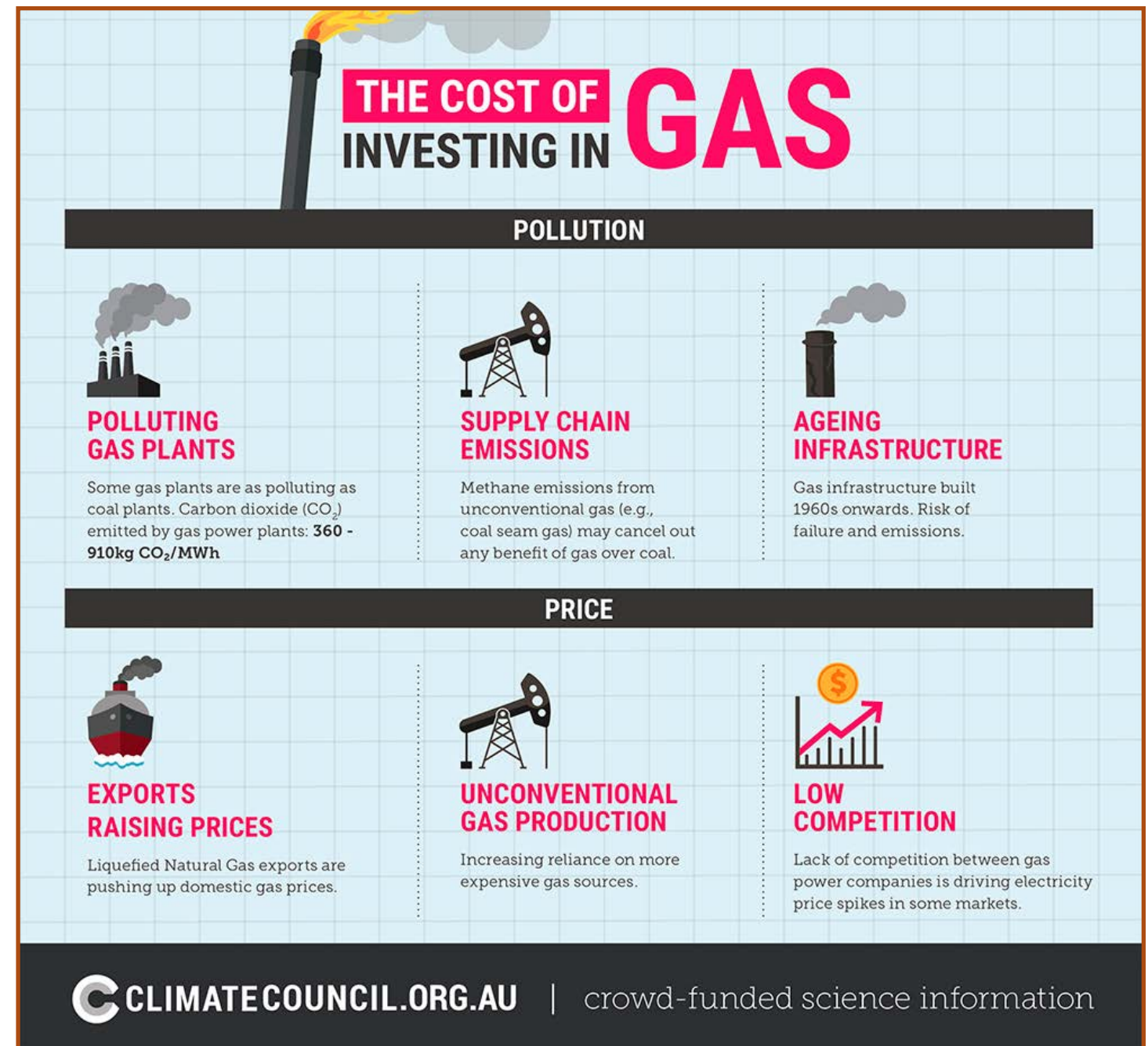


POLLUTION AND PRICE: THE COST OF INVESTING IN GAS

Download the report at <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/price-of-gas>

Investing in more gas will lock in high electricity prices and pollution for decades to come. Our new report, 'Pollution and Price: The cost of investing in gas,' shows that tackling

climate change and protecting Australians from worsening extreme weather requires our electricity system to produce zero emissions before 2050.





KEY FINDINGS

1. Australia’s electricity system is ageing, inefficient and polluting.

- As coal fired generators close new power plants must be built to provide clean, affordable, secure power.
- Tackling climate change and protecting Australians from worsening extreme weather requires our electricity system to produce zero emissions before 2050.
- Fossil fuels: coal, oil and gas all produce greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change. Limiting global temperature rise requires that they are all phased out.

2. Gas is not sufficiently less polluting than coal to garner any climate benefit.

- Greenhouse gas emissions are produced both from gas power stations and gas production (for instance, methane from gas leaks). Methane is 86 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period.
- Old gas plants in Australia, such as Torrens Island, are as polluting as coal fired power stations.
- New gas power plants are less polluting than coal, however, when the entire supply chain of gas production is considered, gas is not significantly less polluting than coal to garner any climate benefit.
- Current levels of reliance on gas power in Australia must be reduced to play our role in limiting global temperature below 2°C. Expanding gas usage is inconsistent with tackling climate change as it locks in emissions for decades into the future.

3. Greater reliance on gas will drive higher power prices.

- Australia’s Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) exports are pushing up the price of gas power as domestic gas prices are now inextricably linked to world market prices for oil. This will continue into the foreseeable future.

- The most economic and accessible reserves are now being exported. Further gas expansion will drive increased reliance on unconventional gas, which is expensive.
- Reliance on gas power is also driving power price spikes particularly in South Australia, Queensland and increasingly in New South Wales, due to lack of competition among gas power companies.

4. Investment in new gas plants is financially risky.

- The large increases in future gas prices and volatility resulting from LNG exports together with domestic gas prices controlled by relatively few producers, make investments in new power plants using gas very risky.
- New gas power plants would rely on ageing gas infrastructure (e.g. processing plants and high pressure pipelines) that is increasingly vulnerable to failure. Costs of updating this infrastructure and accounting for methane leakage must be factored into policy and investment decisions.
- New gas infrastructure locks in carbon emissions for decades. Future regulations may impose higher costs or stricter limits on emissions in the future, impacting on the economic viability of gas production and electricity generation, stranding investments in new gas plants

5. Significant development of new gas plants is unfeasible without a massive expansion of unconventional gas, including thousands of new unconventional gas wells.

- The sheer volume of gas required, the cost, the lock in of long-term emissions, and community concerns makes this unrealistic.
- Currently the emissions from unconventional gas in Australia are unknown due to a lack of measurement and data. This presents a long-term carbon risk to investors as high emissions fossil fuel infrastructure faces the possibility of future regulation due to climate change.



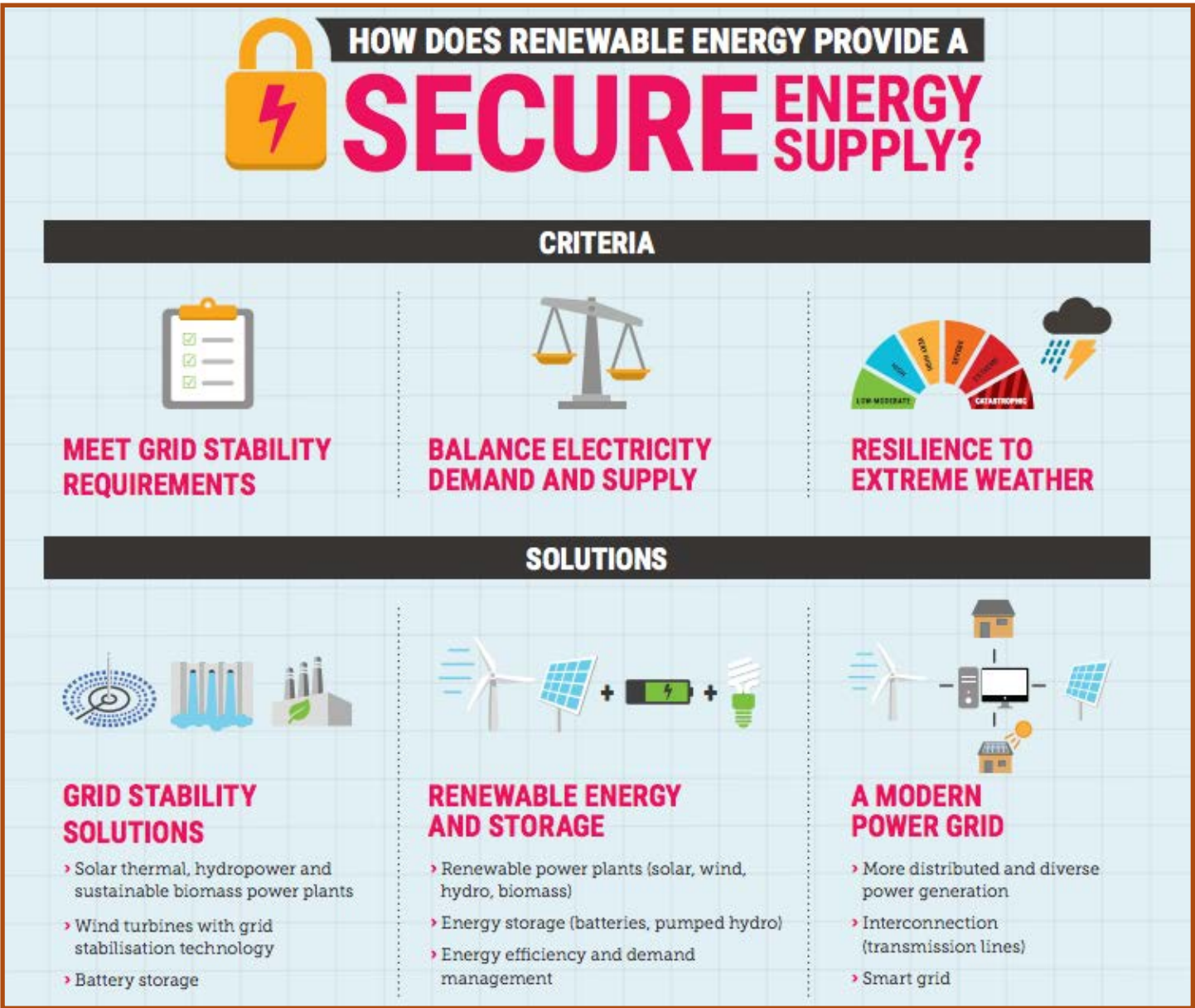
- Development of new unconventional gas is entirely out of step with meeting the Federal Government’s climate change goals.

6. Renewable energy can provide a secure, affordable alternative to new fossil fuels.

- New renewable energy is cost competitive with new gas. The cost of renewable power and storage, particularly solar, wind and batteries, continues to fall and has no associated fuel costs. This contrasts with rising and volatile gas prices.
- Technologies such as solar thermal, hydro and biomass plants can meet demand for

electricity at all times of the day as well as meeting technical requirements for grid stability. Combining these technologies with wind, solar PV, and large- scale energy storage, can meet electricity demand round-the-clock.

- Using existing gas-fired generators and supply infrastructure prudentially to complement wind and solar power while scaling up a range of renewable energy technologies, energy storage, and energy efficiency measures could deliver a limited benefit, provided the end goal is phasing out the use of all fossil fuels quickly as possible.





RePower Alice Springs

RePower Alice Springs is seeking more volunteers and financial support to help realise the vision for 100% renewable energy for Alice Springs by 2030.

After a successful strategic planning session in March, the group has decided to form 3 working groups to better engage people in areas that interest them. The working groups are:

1. Policy

Engaging in govt policy process, developing RePower's policy framework, meeting with politicians and Renewable Energy Taskforce

RePower Alice Springs launches survey of community views on energy options

RePower Alice Springs is surveying the views of Alice Springs community members about solar and other energy options in our town. RePower Alice Springs is a community group established over 12 months ago to advocate for a transition to renewable energy in Alice Springs. The group has launched an online survey for all people of Alice Springs to contribute their views.

'People's responses will help us to understand the views of the wider community. This will assist in guiding future education campaigns, particularly about solar and renewable energy options in Alice Springs. RePower Alice Springs members meet regularly with government and NT energy companies, and knowing how members of the wider community feel about our energy supply will ensure we present a balanced and supported view,' stated Dr Rosalie Schultz, a member of RePower Alice Springs.

"There are many views about how energy for

2. People

Community Engagement, rolling out the solar survey, developing broader community engagement opportunities

3. Power

Community energy projects, developing opportunities for more solar power in Alice

Can you help with the Solar Community Survey? We need volunteers to assist at the Alice Springs Town Council markets collecting responses.

RePower will be having monthly coordinating meetings 1st Monday of every month.

To join a working group, come to the next monthly RePower meeting, help with the survey or for further information email repoweralicesprings@gmail.com

Alice Springs could be provided. Historically governments have made decisions with little consultation and limited information about public perceptions. More recently RePower Alice Springs has been grateful at the level of interest of the current government in hearing from community members. Results of our survey will provide an even broader perspective, and enable the entire community to be involved in creating its energy future," she stated.

The Todd Mall Markets will be a focus of seeking responses to the survey, and RePower Alice Springs members will be at every market for the next six weeks. If people would like to complete the survey themselves, there is a direct link from the Arid Lands Environment Centre Website, and Facebook page. Paper versions are also available to promote the widest possible participation.

"We want to make it as easy as we can

for people to be heard," said Dr Schultz. "Community engagement in their own power supply is the future of energy security worldwide, and RePower Alice Springs is proud to be taking a leadership role by enabling the Alice Springs community to state their views."

RePower Alice Springs Urges Renewable Energy Taskforce to Put Forward Ambitious Targets

RePower Alice Springs is urging community members to have their say on the NT Government's Roadmap to Renewables and is advocating for 100% renewable energy for Alice Springs by 2030.

The NT Government has committed to adopt a target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030 and has engaged an independent panel of experts chaired by Mr Alan Langworthy to inform a 'Roadmap to Renewables' report.

RePower Alice Springs welcomes this commitment and has made the following submission to the Taskforce to promote its vision of a rapid transition to 50% and beyond to meet the full potential of renewable energy generation in Alice Springs.

"RePower Alice Springs is committed to securing a 100% renewable energy future for Alice Springs, and we see the NT Roadmap to Renewables as an important step in that process.

For Alice Springs residents the community survey can be undertaken at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SW8LC8K>

We urge the taskforce to advocate for ambitious targets and actions across the Territory and we encourage community members to make further submissions to share their ideas for securing a renewable energy future in Alice Springs," said Repower Alice Springs spokesperson Lou Stanley.

The terms of reference can be found at <https://roadmaptorenewables.nt.gov.au/terms-of-reference>

Donations Needed!

Donate directly to the tax deductible ALEC Inc Gift Fund through direct deposit - and make sure you reference "RePower AS"
BSB: 633000 Account: 134358688

Please email business@alec.org.au with your name and amount donated and a receipt will be emailed shortly.





RePower Alice Springs Submission to the Northern Territory Renewable Energy Panel

RePower Alice Springs was formed in February 2016 by a group of residents who are committed to seeing Alice Springs reach the full potential of renewable energy generation. RePower initially formed in response to the Giles government \$75 million investment in gas with no accompanying investment in renewable energy and no community consultation.

Since then, RePower has built a campaign for a transition to greater renewable energy, meeting with Territory energy utilities and government ministers and facilitating local community engagement on renewable energy issues.

RePower Alice Springs believes that achieving 100% renewable energy in Alice Springs by 2030 is both achievable and necessary to provide reliable, cost-effective and efficient energy into the future. This vision recognizes that Alice Springs has significant renewable potential due to the following factors:

- Alice enjoys over 300 sunny days a year
- Alice has higher than average solar irradiance
- Alice has a uniquely isolated electrical grid
- Alice has a history as a Solar City and unique knowledge and technical expertise
- Alice is well placed to benefit from the rapidly reducing costs of solar PV and battery technology

The Northern Territory Renewable Energy Roadmap

RePower Alice Springs calls on the Renewable Energy Roadmap to put forward a clear strategy that ensures Alice Springs, and indeed the entire Territory, can meet the full potential of renewable energy generation. We demand ambitious targets and actions and a robust regulatory framework which provides incentives for greater uptake of, and removes current roadblocks to, greater renewable energy installation, increased efficiency and effective incentives for behaviour change such as cost-reflective tariffs.

RePower Alice Springs acknowledges that rooftop solar, commercial-scale solar, battery storage, investment in network stability, community-owned energy initiatives and energy efficiency are all essential elements to ensuring a greater proportion of renewable electricity generation in the Alice Springs grid. It is essential that the right policies and regulatory settings are put in place to enable maximum investment across each of these fields.

RePower also expects that Territory electricity customers should be provided a green energy option by the energy retailer.



In addition, RePower demands that the transition to greater renewable energy realises the fuel cost savings and local economic development opportunities from eliminating reliance on diesel and gas.

Regulatory and policy settings should enable improved local job and training opportunities and ensure that the benefits of a renewable future are accessible to low-income households, rental properties and public housing.

Furthermore, we call on the panel to consider the extensive wealth of renewable energy knowledge and expertise in Alice Springs and consider opportunities that can sustain and develop the local solar industry, and ensure that Alice Springs can be a world-class solar centre.

Alice Springs also has opportunities as a research centre in solar and other technology, and can build on previous experience of the Desert Knowledge and Centre for Appropriate Technology. This integrates with the government's goal of increasing population, and will attract educated and motivated young people with families to the town.

Incentives, costs and pricing

RePower Alice Springs expects that the Roadmap to Renewables will ensure the right incentives are in place to enable households, communities and small enterprise to rapidly take-up renewable energy generation options, at reducing cost. A few considerations regarding the Alice Springs grid include:

- Privately funded electricity generation capacity in Alice Springs is in excess of

\$12 million, with solar PV providing about 12% of current electricity generation. The roadmap should consider the saving to the NTG this private investment has enabled (approximately \$24m to date).

- The 1:1 feed in tariff has enabled Alice residents to manage the costs and risk profile of solar installation (e.g. maintenance, insurance, damage, disconnections, system failure) – any changes to the feed in tariff will need to address these risk profiles to the 1000 households on the Alice Springs electricity network and ensure alternative and ongoing incentives for rapid uptake of solar.
- As the cost of solar PV and batteries decreases residents' uptake will increase. The roadmap will need to ensure that the price of electricity across the territory will stay competitive and ensure that the cost-benefits of a transition to renewable will be shared by all Territorians. Social justice, environmental and sustainability objectives can be met through the right incentives, leading to long-term benefits in all these domains.

Promising examples of innovation for potential deployment in Alice Springs

RePower Alice Springs is calling on the Panel to ensure that the conditions are right in the Northern Territory to deploy innovative and cost-effective technologies in Alice Springs, as well as develop new technologies and systems suitable for local conditions with potential for implementation elsewhere. Promising examples include:

- Virtual power plants – <https://aglsolar.com.au/power-in-numbers/>, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-16/virtual-power-plant/8358894>
- Hot silicon storage – <http://1414degrees.com.au>

Keep updated via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/repoweralicesprings/>





I can never quite guarantee the amount of produce, what type of produce or some times even the delivery of produce on time for start of sale at the Food for Alice market. However I can guarantee that Food for Alice stimulates some interesting conversations around food!

For everyone who is a gardener in Alice Springs you will have witnessed first hand the devastation of grasshoppers on your plants. You will have also witnessed the longer summer and the fact that winter planting is a little behind schedule. You also know (or will be learning) that different times of the year means different plants, which means different vegetables, fruits and flowers.

Recently when Food for Alice comes up in conversations people have stated “I went the other week and there was not much produce”, “it was hard to work out what to buy”, and “the market did not have what I needed for the week”.

Every time I get these comments it is an opportunity to test assumptions about food supply. And most times I find that the person did not even realise that they had made an assumption. Take for example the last one “the market did not have what I needed”. So what were you looking for? In most cases it is a fruit or vegetable that is not in season here in Alice. This person may have assumed that it would be at the market for a number of different reasons. It may be that it is available in the supermarkets without them realising that the produce has come from overseas, or it could be in season in a different part of Australia.

Some people understand this but it is not “common sense” to everyone. If you have never thought about it, never have had a garden, or if you grew up in a world where the supply of fruit and veg was never was discussed then why would this be common sense?

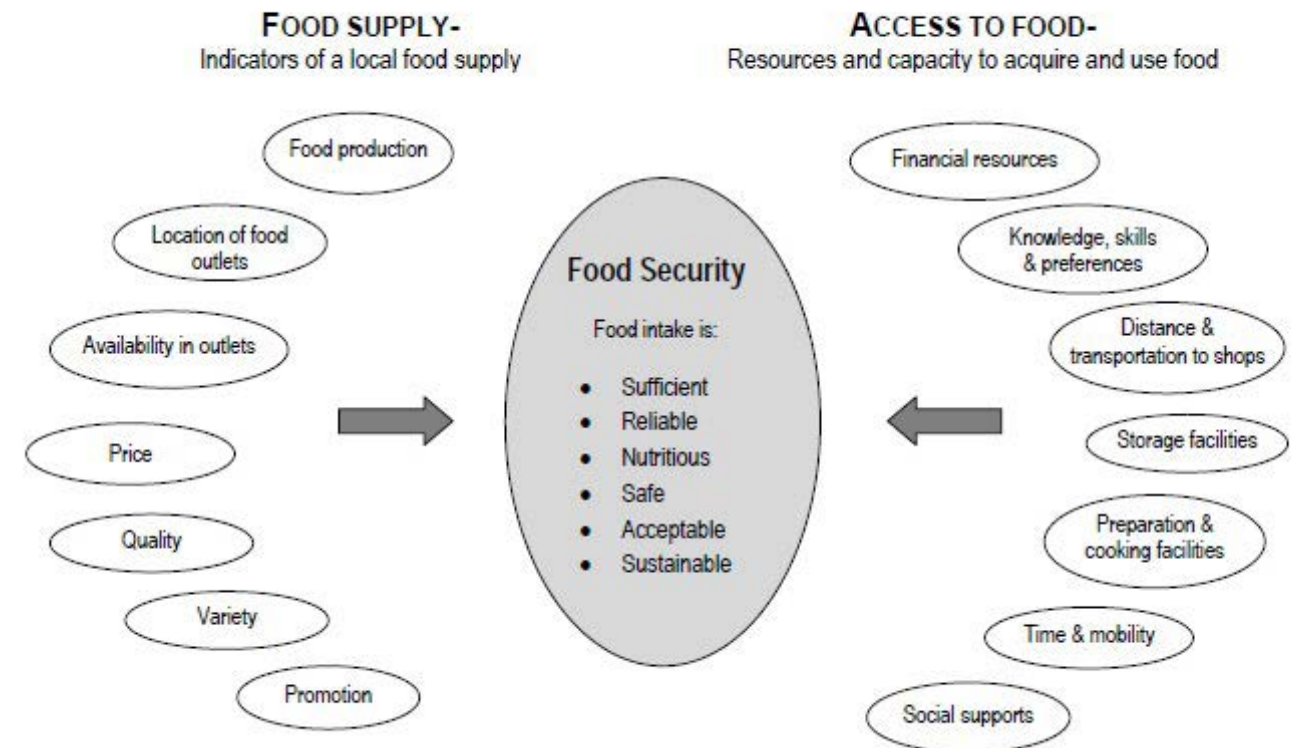
I always remember a time when I was a poor university student. I had an old Toyota Corolla that consumed both petrol and oil. So much oil that I had to top it up on a fortnightly basis. One time a person who I regarded as smart and knowledgeable helped me and in the process asked me “why are you putting the oil in there?” She thought that is where you put the water. After getting over my shock of this, I dug a little deeper to find that she had never even seen an engine, never put oil in her car (or water thankfully) and all she knew was how to drive her car, not how it worked.

In many ways this approach is the same with buying fruit and veg, a lot of people jut buy it from the supermarket with little understanding of the processes of how it got there.

This is why Food for Alice is more than just a



Determinants of Food Security



small farmers market stall. Food for Alice is an opportunity. An opportunity for small back yard gardens to get their produce to others, an opportunity to spark conversations around food security, supply and even demand. An opportunity to be able to produce and sell and consume fruit and veg that is not available from the local supermarkets (like fresh broad beans). It is an opportunity to remove peoples assumptions that they never even realised they had about the supply of fresh food.

So if you ever find yourself in a conversation where some one says something that is totally wrong about food production (like “there is not much produce in Alice”). Remember to take the opportunity to help them test and change their assumptions (i.e. “yes well that is because the grasshoppers don’t know how to share and have eaten all the produce). If they don’t know about grasshoppers and their ability to not share, then they may not have put 2 and 2 together and that them seeing lots of happy full grass

hoppers means less produce for us humans! And sometimes less produce at the Food for Alice Stall!

Happy growing and eating every one.

Carmel Vandermolen

Join the Food for Alice Facebook Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/108715702520033/>





COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION & LOTS OF YUM.



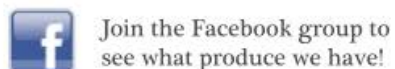
WHAT WE DO:

- We reduce food waste by buying backyard gardeners excess produce
- We reduce food miles by offering people local produce
- We create an alternative to the supermarket duopoly
- We create a culture and a community around local food

WHAT WE SELL:

- We sell seasonal, local fruit & vegetables
- We also sell local honey, and eggs and can sell jam, pesto, and sauce if made in a registered kitchen.

MARKET STALL
EVERY SATURDAY MORNING!
9-11AM @ ALEC



Arid Lands Environment Centre,
90 Gap Rd, Alice Springs
contact Carmel: 0409 180 614



**BRINGING LOCAL FARMS & BACKYARD GROWERS
OF ALICE SPRINGS TO THE TABLE.**



The AEES team has been very busy in the first few months of 2017, with some great contracts happening and more on the way. In particular AEES is now signed up to the NT Government Home Improvement Scheme, so call us now to get a quote for landscaping and irrigation in your home make the most of the generous \$4000 vouchers on offer.

The landscaping team has been busy, finishing the massive Larapinta Child Care Centre project with MPH Carpentry and Construction in March. The beautiful designs by LA3 Landscape Architects have really come to life on the ground and are looking great after some great summer rains.

The team has now moved on to working on the heritage listed property 86 Hartley St, with the front yard now complete and further works to come. Combining AEES water efficient approaches and designs to reflect the heritage nature of the site from new team member and



The completed Arid Edge landscaping at the Larapinta Child Care Centre project.

designer Ra Sim, this yard will look great as it grows, and we look forward to seeing how the whole block will turn out.

The work for the dole team at the community garden has just finished it's second 6 months, and the gardens are looking great! Garden beds, paths, a new entry way and a fantastic shaded meeting area with solar panels have all been installed and have transformed the gardens. Supervisor Ben Wall and the team are taking a short break (for date harvesting season!) and will hopefully be back for another 12 month round starting mid year.

The Merne Murde Utopia Food Gardens project continues to provide great outcomes for local indigenous people in the homelands, with 13 gardens established across 10 homelands, some of which are now 9 years old!

The profile of the gardens project is growing, with AEES Manager Alex McClean and Utopia Project Officer Hilton Chilvers recently having the opportunity to show NT ministers Gerry McCarthy and Dale Wakefield, and MLP's Chancey Paeche and Selina Ouibo around the gardens in April. In addition My Pathway have just signed contracts with AEES to continue this work until June 2018, so we look forward to more great results to come.

We are venturing into a new area beginning this winter when we begin maintenance work on the Larapinta Trail with track building icon "Snapper John" and his team from Tasmania. Work will include Serpentine Gorge, Simpsons Gap, Ormiston Gorge and some remote areas accessible only by helicopter! Watch this space for news.

We will be running an Intro to Permaculture course on May 6&7 at the Alice Springs Community Gardens. Covering a wide range of techniques and approaches to successfully gardening in the arid zone this course will be

useful for beginners and established green thumbs alike. Places are limited so contact info@aridedge.com.au now for more info and to sign up.

Our Garden Tune Ups and small landscaping projects continue, with numerous Alice Springs residents calling us for assistance and saving water and money as a result. Don't forget Autumn is a great time to adjust your watering schedule for winter and make sure you're not over watering when your garden doesn't need it.

Call us on 8953-8835 or email on info@aridedge.com.au if you'd like a to book a \$49 garden tuneup.

Alex McClean
AEES Manager



Results from the work for the dole project at the Alice Springs Community Garden

Like the new AEES Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/aridedge/>



Will your winter garden be WaterWise?



Is
your
leaky
irrigation
costing you
money?

Get ready for the dry winter months.
Book a **Garden Tune Up** now!

Only **\$49.00**

30 minute consult includes:
* On the spot irrigation repairs + maintenance
* Water saving advice
* Quotes for further work needed

Call: 8953 8835
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We can help you grow your own healthy organic and nutritious food:
• Garden design, installation and maintenance
• Soil Preparation and testing
• Fruit tree care
• Water saving advice
• Pest and disease management
• Weed management

Call: 8953 8835
Email: info@aridedge.com.au



Alice Springs Community Garden



Regular working bees are on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month.

www.alicecommunitygarden.org.au



By the end of 2016 our 35 individual plots and 4 community beds flourished and fed and inspired many. However the summer season

has seen the grasshoppers return again in plague proportions and once more we have been impatiently awaiting a cool change to the weather and with it a decline in grasshopper numbers before mass autumnal plantings can begin.

As in previous years the Committee has been very fortunate in gaining access to many loads of cow manure from the cattleyards that have enabled us to get well underway with creating another 10 private plots. Existing plot holders have had free access to the manure and it has



also been used in composting.

Much more has been happening in the Garden beyond the gardens per se.

- Ben Wall's excellent Work for the Dole team of up to eight workers have been hard at it constructing bagged earth garden walls that have given the entrance a spectacular and colourful new look including four new community beds. They've made some vertical gardens, a shaded strawberry bed and a small stage on the northern end of the solar pergola for future events. Laterite paths have been laid down for wheelchair access utilizing a ASTC community grant. The Garden Committee has expressed its warm thanks to the workers and to Ben for their dedication and skills. Four regulars have been gifted an annual membership of the Garden.
- The Garden's 4.5 kW solar pergola is now in operation and exporting energy to the grid. Thanks go to Ben Cartwright from Sun Energy and our committeeman Allan O'Keefe from Comwin for getting a great job done.
- ALEC has submitted a bid for NT government funding for a 6m*6m kitchen/office/toilet area that would enable us to have a more consistent presence in the Garden. The great news is that we have been successful!
- One of our issues going forward is around ensuring regular maintenance, particularly of the extensive irrigation system. It would also be nice to make the Garden more accessible to visitors. And there would be opportunities for much more community seed raising and community engagement within and beyond our Garden membership.
- Work is continuing on cleaning weeds and buffel grass from the sacred site hill behind the Garden. It's a long term project that is seen as complementary to the Garden itself.
- Our last Friday of the month social evenings are continuing on and hopefully will grow in popularity.
- Working bees are held on at least the first and third Sunday mornings of the month.

They make a vital contribution to the Garden's health and safety. Visitors are always most welcome.

- Meditation sessions continue at the Bodhi tree early each Sunday morning.
- We continue to supply produce to the Food for Alice stall at ALEC on every Saturday morning.
- ALEC has almost completed re-building our ASCG website and social communications system which is much appreciated and needed to run efficiently and expand community awareness.
- Our Committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday. The volunteer contributions by our members have been absolutely critical to the operation and management of the Garden. A massive well done is owed to them!

Looking ahead!

- It is hoped that the Work for the Dole team will get a further six month contract at the Garden. There are still a number of outstanding projects from the original Master Plan to be achieved. There's a kernel of a plan to make a new single gate entrance on the western end of the Garden and in the long term we will need to consider improved car parking arrangements.
- Unfortunately some of the acacias on the dunes have grown too big and their roots are invading the garden plots. So the dune plantings need to be redesigned.

If the reader hasn't been down to the Garden recently consider a visit on a Sunday morning around 9-10 on a working bee morning or come along to a social evening or Committee meeting.

You'll be most welcome.

Bruce Simmons
simmonsbruce@hotmail.com

Keep updated via the ASCG Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/AliceCommunityGarden/>

The Arid Lands Environment Centre presents



Friday 11th August

9am EcoScience Schools Day
@ Olive Pink Botanic Gardens

4pm Bicycle Film Festival
@ Olive Pink Botanic Gardens

Saturday 12th August

9am Food for Alice with Coats
@ ALEC 90 Gee Road

3pm Garden to Plate including
Green Thumb with Coats,
Georgina, Bush Wok Cook Off,
Food Waste to Energy
@ Alice Springs Community Garden

Sunday 13th August

9.30am Sustainable Living
Festival with feature
speakers, workshops, market
stalls and entertainment
@ Snow Kenna Park

For more information www.ecofair.org.au





WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY EXHIBITION

“Humanity will never be able to defeat a threat it cannot perceive.”

150 people attended the opening of the 60,000 Artists Climate Change Exhibition at Watch This Space on Friday June 2nd to celebrate World Environment Day.

Artist were asked to create an artwork that responded to the article: Why Climate Change Needs 60,000 Artists . This article suggests that artists are an integral component of communicating the implications of climate change more effectively to the broader community.

26 artists responded with an eclectic range of works that ranged from examining the bigger picture of climate change to more tangible impacts like flooding, disappearing birds, the issues of fracking and recycling and re-using resources.

The exhibition was opened by local artist Suzi Lyon, who recently held a climate exhibition with images from her travels to Antartica, and a poem was read by Kim Zenith.

Despite the overwhelming nature of climate change and expressions of sadness and despair,

what truly shone through was the resilience and care of local communities and a commitment to continue to take action for a more sustainable future.

A big thank you to all the artists who contributed and donated their artworks to support the work of Watch This Space and Arid Lands Environment Centre, and to try and communicate the implications of climate change to the broader community.



Fracking Fraggles by Esther Nunn

WORKSHOPS

ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE IS RUNNING MONTHLY WORKSHOPS AT THE ALEC COMMUNITY CENTRE. COME ALONG AND GET INVOLVED. WE'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

6 MAY	EARTH LAW AND ENVIRONMENTAL JURISPRUDENCE	FREE
3 JUN	BEESWAX WRAP MAKING	\$15/10 <small>CONC/MEMB</small>
8 JUL	TOFU MAKING	\$15/10 <small>CONC/MEMB</small>
12 AUG	BUSH MEDICINE	\$15/10 <small>CONC/MEMB</small>
2 SEPT	MAKING CHANGE THROUGH COMMUNITY ACTIVISM	FREE
7 OCT	GREEN BEAUTY	\$15/10 <small>CONC/MEMB</small>
4 NOV	WHOLE FOODS/MEAL PLANNING AND THE CULT OF PRESERVATION	\$15/10 <small>CONC/MEMB</small>

RSVP FOR WORKSHOPS ONLINE AT ALEC.ORG.AU OR EMAIL COMMUNITY@ALEC.ORG.AU



Arid Lands Environment Centre

Welcome to New ALEC Staff

ALEC welcomes 3 new staff members; Alex Read who is our Policy officer (0.6fte), Laurie May who is our Community Outreach and Engagement Officer (0.4fte), and Jesse Hancock who is the Central Australian Frack Free Coordinator (0.6fte).

A bit about Alex

Hello fellow desert defenders,

I'm Alex, the new policy officer from Sydney. I have just recently joined the team here at ALEC in order to strengthen the organisations ability to engage government and industry in pushing for stronger and more progressive environmental policy. I have studied environmental management and law so I have a solid foundation in regulatory and legal processes with a particular interest in keeping government accountable and facilitating the transition to a low carbon economy.

The second component of my role is to work

with you, the community, in representing the environmental vision of Alice Springs and the broader arid lands ensuring the long term sustainability of communities and natural systems for many generations. I hope that I can help empower the town in making decisions about its future direction in the areas of renewable energy, water, indigenous rights and biodiversity. It is so exciting to be here and to join this vibrant and passionate community in the fight against fracking and other projects. I look forward to meeting and working with you on this beautiful Arrente country.

A bit about Laurie May

After five years in the desert Laurie May has come over to ALEC as the Community Engagement Officer. With a background in performance poetry and current President of Totem Theatre, Laurie has been volunteering in the community for years.

With that mindset, Laurie will be getting out in



the community and helping you get involved with ALEC - managing volunteers, managing ALEC memberships and organising workshops.

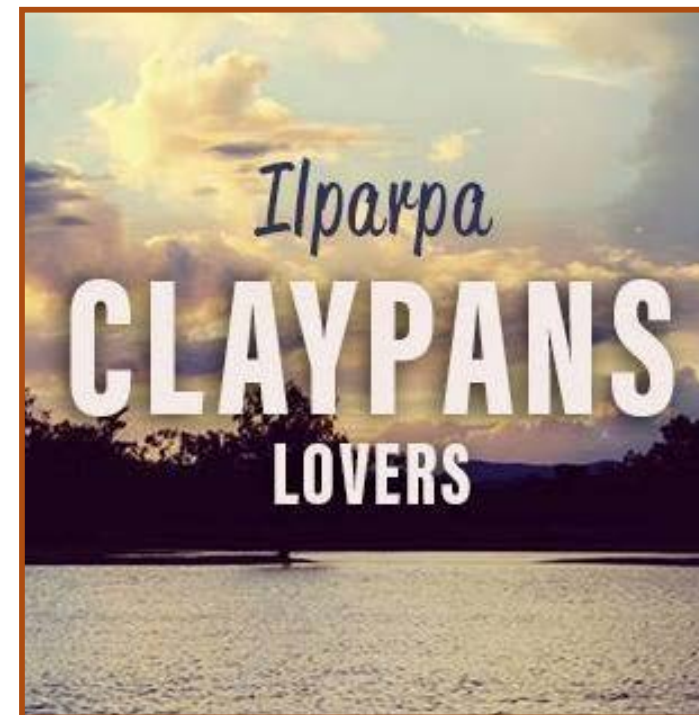
A bit about Jesse

I am a passionate advocate for social justice, environmental protection, and participative democracy in all aspects of life. Over the past 5 years I have worked campaigning and organising for Trade Unions and community organisations in Australia and the UK.

At University I had the opportunity to study social theory and human geography. In my honours year I wrote a thesis that examined the "Occupy phenomenon" and different approaches to understanding how it came to be. It highlights a broader interest of mine, in understanding what it is that motivates people to action, and how societal structures and powers can contribute to this.

In my new role I look forward to working with you to grow the reach and capacity of the Frack Free

movement in Central Australia. This year is such an important opportunity for civil society to come together, learn together, and ensure that the future of the Northern Territory is one that is built around the best interests of the community.



Ilparpa Claypans Lovers

Ilparpa Claypans Lovers is a community group focused on facilitating the sustainable use & responsible management of the Ilparpa Claypans for future generations. Ilparpa Claypans Lovers hold meetings on the first Saturday of every month in the gazebo table at Bean Tree Cafe, Olive Pink Botanical Gardens from 10 am to 11 am.

Email contact: ilparpaclaypanslovers@gmail.com
Take the survey organised by the Ilparpa Claypans Lovers group here:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ilparpaclaypans>

Find out more:
<https://www.facebook.com/IlparpaClaypansLovers>

Tell us straight! More about waste than salt!

Tellus Holdings Pty Ltd is planning a massive dual revenue project of salt mining and geological waste storage. Petroleum exploration discovered a large salt deposit south of Tjittjikala that is several kilometres wide and around 300 metres thick. Tellus has already submitted an environmental impact statement about the project which ALEC has reviewed and made a submission on.

Our submission addressed water contamination risks associated with waste disposal, inadequate consultation with the Tjittjikala community, enabling effect on the fracking industry and the regulation of waste storage.

As it currently stands mining projects are exempt from licencing under the Water Act and the Waste Management Pollution Act which means that the company is not legally obliged to licence their waste disposal actions or the amount of water they use. They are also not liable for contamination that occurs on the mining tenement. This means there may not be full and frank disclosure of the concentration and volume of wastes to be stored.

A significant unknown is the full lifecycle of the project. The salt deposit will be viable for many decades beyond the stated lifespan of 29 years. If the project goes ahead it will be committing the region to a long legacy of permanent waste disposal with increased industrialisation of the landscape south of Alice Springs.

Tellus is intending to create a market for international and domestic waste for permanent geological storage in the salt. One way that waste will be stored is through hydraulic back filling which involves the mixing of hazardous waste with salt water (from CSG or fracking) and pumping this mixture underground. This method is practiced around the world but it is not without its risks as the salt formation underground is

constantly moving. ALEC is concerned that decades down the track, there will be no monitoring to determine if water is leaking into the void space and there is leaching of the contaminants. Over time "salt creep" may open fissures in the rock and create contamination pathways.

The company is intending to transport, in the years of full operation, up to 300,000 tonnes of hazardous waste. These wastes include asbestos, heavy metals, contaminated soil, building material, PCBs and other chemical and industrial wastes.

In late March ALEC visited Tjittjikala and spoke with the community in detail about the hazardous waste storage. Through the use of an independent interpreter, we were able to provide more information to the community than the company had through their consultation. We are trying to ensure that the community has as much information about the project as possible so they can make a properly informed decision. While the community is supportive of economic benefits, they are concerned that Tellus will not be able to provide the jobs that they promised.

The project is planned on the sites of two Native Title claims that are now progressing. These are the Maryvale and Henbury Native Title claims. Transparent discussion and agreement with the company will be necessary for the groups to



reach indigenous land use agreements that are required before the project can progress.

ALEC will continue to work with people who are connected to the project to provide them with as much information and support as they need. We want to ensure that there is appropriate regulation of the waste and are requesting greater clarity about exactly how the waste will be regulated through the EPA. These questions are especially pertinent now that the NT government is introducing sweeping reforms to environmental law and pollution control.

The EIS consultation is now closed and the company is preparing a supplementary report in response to public comments.

The company has prepared a comprehensive list of environmental, economic and social

documents that can be viewed at:
<https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/environmental-assessments/register/chandler-facility/draft-eis>

If you have concerns about this project contact the people below:

Environment Minister Lauren Moss
minister.moss@nt.gov.au and 08 8999 6343
Chief Minister Gunner
chief.minister@nt.gov.au and 08 8999 6437

Arid Lands Environment Centre: get involved
www.alec.org.au 08 8952 2497

Express your concerns to Tellus at info@tellusholdings.com.au 02 92387678

Alex Read
ALEC Policy Officer

ALEC will be supporting the #StopAdani campaign locally.

We have registered as the Alice Springs Climate Action Network. We are looking for people to support local activities to raise the issue of climate change directly and help stop the madness that is the proposed Adani Carmichael Coal Mine.

More details here: <http://www.stopadani.com>

Register interest here: http://www.alec.org.au/stay_connected



MINING PROJECTS TO WATCH

ALEC is currently reviewing a number of Environmental Impact Statements and mining developments including:

- the proposed Tellus Salt Mine and Permanent Chemical Waste Storage facility;
- KGL Jervois Copper Mine;
- TNG Mt Peake Vanadium Mine near Barrow Creek;
- Ammaroo Phosphate project near Ampilatwatja; TriStar Resources coal deposit gifted by the previous government in the Perdirka Basin; Emerson small gold/copper mines in Tenant Creek;
- Newmont Gold mine expansion in Tanami;
- the Arafura Resources Nolans Bore Rare Earth's project near Aileron.

ALEC's policy officer attended the NT Mining seminar in late March as part of the Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar and gained a first-hand insight into the industry. The Minerals Council and Government is ramping up support for the industry and facilitating development of the sector for the Territory's economic growth. There were impassioned speeches against the radical green lefties and their environmental propaganda which made for some interesting conversations.

ALEC will be remaining engaged with all the above projects as they progress throughout the approval process through critiquing the environmental impact assessments of each mine. Through this process we will be providing valuable feedback to the EPA and the mining companies to highlight areas of environmental concern.

The environmental impact statements for some of these projects will be published later in the year and we will engage with them as soon as possible to identify issues of environment risk, especially on the issues of tailings treatment and

water management. We will also be continually promoting non-extractive opportunities for the Territory to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of the NT economy.

If anyone has any skills in the areas of environmental assessment or mining and would like to help with evaluating EIS documents ALEC would love to hear from you. Please email policy@alec.org.au about any of the projects you are interested in.

Water policy reform

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has begun the process of reinstating Strategic Indigenous Reserves (SIR).

SIRs are a specific allocation of water that is reserved for indigenous use within the total beneficial use of an aquifer system. It is reserved for Aboriginal land owners for economic development in addition to cultural entitlements.

A water control district has a set amount of groundwater that is capable of being sustainably extracted. This policy will allocate a set amount within that level for Aboriginal owners to use in economic projects.

It is a progressive policy that would make the Northern Territory a leader in water policy aimed at addressing Indigenous disadvantage in Australia.

ALEC has been involved in the process as it has progressed and has made a submission to the Government on how to ensure that the benefits of the policy are equitably distributed into communities without compromising the sustainable yield of aquifer.

Alex Read
ALEC Policy Officer

Frack Free Central Australia: We can do this!

The issue of fracking in the Northern Territory is centre stage once again, with fresh calls from the Federal Government to build yet another fracking pipeline, this time from Alice Springs to Moomba in SA.

It is increasingly clear that the big gas fracking companies and our Governments have a plan to make the Northern Territory a sacrifice zone for fracking gasfields. Gas companies are licking their lips, wanting to frack the Territory yet again. Already, there is pressure mounting for the fracking moratorium and inquiry to be over, resulting in a green light granted for fracking, no matter what.

But that's not the way the story finishes. Fracking doesn't get the go ahead. It can't. Our long-term water supplies cannot be put at risk for a boom bust shale gas fracking industry.

All the pressure mounting on us from the fracking industry is because of the incredible work of local communities, Traditional Owners, pastoralists and tourism operators across the Territory. Community members have been standing up loudly and confidently to protect our natural

assets from fracking gasfields.

Most importantly, we have the biggest stake in the outcome of the NT Fracking Inquiry: the future of our water, our cultural landscapes, our climate and our communities.

Now is not the time to hope the Government does the right thing. Now is the time to know that if you get active, get organised and get involved – it will put an end to risky shale fracking in the Territory. We have this year to do it.

Despite the pro-fracking agendas being pushed onto us - our strength and unity across the Northern Territory can grow.

Alice Springs residents came together for an incredible turn out at the Fracking Inquiry hearings in March. You spoke up for ban on the risky shale gas fracking industry. This outcome is off the back of an INCREDIBLE frack free effort across Alice Spring last year.

For more information and to get involved email: frackfreecoordinator@gmail.com



BEYOND NUCLEAR INITIATIVE

Beyond Nuclear Initiative launched in Alice Springs in March 2006 to support community resistance against plans for a national nuclear waste facility in the Northern Territory. The project expanded in scope to campaign against uranium exploration projects in Central Australia and also support communities interstate after the NT waste dump plan was defeated in 2014.

National Radioactive Waste Dump

Currently there are three sites in South Australia being assessed to host a national radioactive waste facility for the disposal of low level and extended storage of intermediate level radioactive wastes. The most hazardous waste is produced from operations at the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor south of Sydney. One proposed waste site is near Hawker in the Flinders Ranges and two are located near Kimba on the Eyre Peninsula.

Until recently Wallerberdina cattle station in the iconic Flinders Ranges was the only site under contention. Former Liberal Senator Grant Chapman leases the land from the SA government and nominated it without consulting his neighbours at Yappala Station, an Indigenous Protected Area run by the McKenzie family. It was granted IPA status by the federal government for significant cultural heritage value. Adnyamathanha woman Regina McKenzie said; "Storylines go through the area. There's also a massive archaeological site. It's also an ancient trading route. This is a place where we took our children to learn to swim, where we went with my father. This is our place of learning, where we still hunt and gather bush tucker."

Traditional Owners and local community members have made numerous representations to the federal government to drop the site from consideration. The Flinders Local Action Group

(FLAG) is coordinating the community campaign and has held a number of events to broaden awareness of the proposal in SA and nationally. The Kimba region in the Eyre Peninsula is now also back in the frame.



Federal Resource Minister Matt Canavan has formally accepted two new site nominations near Kimba and initiated a 90-day process to measure community views on the proposed facility. Last April two previously nominated sites in the region were ruled out of federal consideration amidst clear community concern and opposition.



Heather McKenzie at Punkga Pudanha

Australian Conservation Foundation Campaigner Dave Sweeney said; "revisiting a community that has already made its view clear looks more like Canberra's frustration than community consultation. This radioactive waste is a direct hazard for many thousands of years - far longer than any politician's promise. Short term thinking about long term waste is not good policy or practise."

Putting the spotlight back on Kimba will put further pressure on an already stressed community and highlights the continued uncertainty in the government's approach. The search for a centralised radioactive waste facility site continues to be haphazard and highly contested at every 'nominated' location. When four sites in the Northern Territory were under consideration for the national nuclear

waste dump, a range of civil society and stakeholder groups came together to advocate for Australia's radioactive waste to be managed in improved storage facilities at existing federal sites while a credible, comprehensive and open exploration of the full range of future management options was undertaken.

There has never been an independent assessment of long-term management options in Australia, rather just a decades long search to find a remote postcode. Communities have responded, organised and resisted every attempt.

International nuclear waste proposal for SA.

In 2016 the South Australia Royal Commission into the nuclear fuel cycle recommended pursuit



NUCLEAR WASTE IS NOT WELCOME IN KIMBA BECAUSE:

"The site for the radioactive waste facility should be located in a region which has little or no potential for agriculture."

- National Health & Medical Research Council, 'Code of Practice for Near-Surface Disposal of Radioactive Waste in Australia'



www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear

of an international high-level nuclear waste importation and storage industry.

The plan would involve decades of importation and interim storage of high-level nuclear waste to try and raise the funds needed to build a deep (final burial) underground repository. People across the state fiercely contested this risky proposal. The campaign was led by Traditional Owners with living memory of the devastation caused by nuclear bomb tests and the many families suffering from distress caused by current uranium mining projects.

A resounding red light from a 'Citizen's Jury' process has seen the plans shelved, but SA Premier Jay Weatherill has said he remains open to reconsidering it in the future. Groups or individuals can join stakeholder groups and thousands of citizens in endorsing a Statement of Concern written by the No Dump Alliance to send a loud and clear message to the SA government to bury the dump plan once and for all. See www.nodumpalliance.org.au.

Australian Nuclear Free Alliance (ANFA)

This year we celebrate 20 years of the Australian

Nuclear Free Alliance, which first met in Alice Springs to address the threat of the proposed Jabiluka mine in the top end.

ANFA facilitates people to come together and share their experiences dealing with uranium/nuclear projects and proponents. Technical information on environmental and health impacts of the industry is made available in accessible formats to assist with increasing awareness and facilitating informed decision making. ANFA has successfully assisted communities to resist uranium exploration and mining as well as proposed national and international nuclear waste dumps.

Beyond Nuclear Initiative and The Arid Lands Environment Centre have organised and hosted ANFA many times and continue to assist with in-kind support for the network.

For more information or to support ANFA, please visit www.anfa.org.au.

Natalie Wasley

**<http://beyondnuclearinitiative.com>
Facebook: Beyond Nuclear Initiative
Twitter: @BeyondNuclearOz**

2017 will be the 20th Anniversary of the Australia Nuclear Free Alliance!

Stay posted for dates and location.
www.anfa.org.au

Get in touch:
anfacomment@gmail.com

Donate:
www.anfa.org.au/donate



ALEC's Buffel Busting Tour

Three dozen people saw what a difference removing buffel grass can have on natural landscapes in March when they toured several properties around Alice Springs.

The Buffel Busting Inspiration Tour showcasing locals' trials, tribulations and successes in removing the plant with a complicated history was hosted by the Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) in partnership with Land for Wildlife and Desert Knowledge Australia and supported by a TNRM Community Support Grant (available year-round).

Thirty-five people joined the tour, piling into two minibuses and a small smattering of utes, which took them from Olive Pink Botanic Gardens to several places around town that have been affected by buffel grass.

First stop was Ilparpa to hear from eminent botanist and agrostologist, Peter Latz. In addition to removing buffel from his 20 acre bush block, Peter has encouraged a few neighbouring properties to do the same and created a corridor by removing buffel from adjoining drainage lines.

Peter pointed out a relatively recent wildfire which had killed old ironwood trees on account of being surrounded by buffel, which can produce a high intensity fire. Now, native and fire tolerant bushes grow up and around live trees, protecting them from severe burns.

Participants were then shown how on Schaber Road, Bruce Simmons has spent recent years removing buffel grass from the roadside verges. Bruce was the first one to tackle the problem in that area and his initiative and leadership has inspired many other owners of nearby bush blocks to follow suit.

Debbie Page, of Ross, was happy to show the

tour how she had successfully cleared her 5 acre block of buffel after learning from Land for Wildlife of the potential benefits of doing so. Following guidance and support from Land for Wildlife Debbie learned how to identify and remove buffel, by spraying at the end of each year's wet season. She has since been rewarded with a beautifully biodiverse garden.

Jude Pritchard hosted the group at Ankerre Ankerre, an area of land recently overrun with saltbush, planted as a dust suppressant, and buffel grass. Over recent years they have pushed the saltbush and buffel boundary back towards the roadside and, in its place, are leaving an inviting landscape that has seen a number of picnicking families enjoy its warmth.

Having returned to the start at Olive Pink, grounds manager Doug McDougall took the tour along Nurse's Hill where the garden's staff, volunteers and the efforts of Green Army teams have been systematically removing buffel and finding the native seed bank has flourished as a result of its absence.

Thanks to all hosts who and to ALEC and Land for Wildlife in particular for their efforts in organising the day.

<http://www.territorynrm.org.au/single-post/2017/02/20/BLOG-Buffel-Busting-Inspiration-Tour>



Inspiring Australia & Science Engagement

This year ALEC have received funding from the Federal Government's Inspiring Australia program. The aim of the Inspiring Australia program is to deliver a more scientifically engaged Australia where Australians are inspired by science and young Australians are encouraged to pursue scientific careers. The aim of the regional hubs is to empower regional communities to engage with local science events.

The first Inspiring Australia event for the Alice Springs Hub was held on World Kidney Day, Thursday 9th March, 2017 at the Alice Springs Town Library, with 90 people attending the event. The event aimed to promote awareness around Chronic Kidney Disease and included healthy living stalls, a panel discussion on kidney health and a free public screening of That Sugar Film.

That Sugar Film was an interesting, humorous and entertaining way to engage the general community in the science of sugar and its effects on the human body. The film was well received. Healthy food and healthy living stalls were prepared by Healthy Living NT, Congress and Charles Darwin University. The stalls were interesting and engaging, for example, CDU nursing students took peoples blood sugar levels, and Healthy Living NT who measured blood pressure and heart rate.

The panel had an interesting and educational discussion on the challenges faced locally with diet, obesity and Chronic Kidney Disease. The panel of local experts included Donna Ah Chee from Congress, Morgan Hitchcock from Western Desert Dialysis, Sue Delacy from Healthy Living NT and Alex McClean from Arid Edge Environmental Services. There was a call for action from all stakeholders to help stop the high rates of Chronic Kidney Disease that are currently experienced by Central Australians. Education was identified as a critical solution,

particularly targeting young people. Support was received for Arid Edge Environmental Services remote horticulture projects, which provides support for growing vegetables on homelands and providing nutritional education to families.

The next Inspiring Australia event is called RoboCup Junior and will be held on the 22nd June, 2017. RoboCup Junior Australia is a project-oriented educational initiative that supports local, regional and international robotic events for young students. For more information contact cfisher@astc.nt.gov.au at Alice Springs Public Library.

In July this year, ALEC hopes to organise a Repair Café as part of its Waste Free July activities. A Repair Café provides find tools and materials to help you make any repairs you need to clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, toys etc. Expert volunteers are available with repair skills in all kinds of fields. If you are interested in volunteering your repair expertise, please contact rachel.oleary@alec.org.au.

Rachel OLeary
ALEC Project Officer



That Sugar Film Panel for World Kidney Day

Waste Wise in Alice

The 'Waste Wise in Alice: An excursion guide to the Alice Springs Regional Waste Management Facility' was developed by the Education for Sustainability Central Australian Network (EFSCAN) and was funded by the NT Environmental Protection Authority. It was project managed by the Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC).

This excursion guide has been developed for teachers to accompany a visit to the Regional Waste Management Facility and is targeting science and geography students from Year 4 through to Year 10. The activities can be used in preparation for an excursion to the tip, but also stand-alone for teachers who may want to run activities in class on how to be waste wise at home and school, without an excursion.

The Waste Wise in Alice excursion guide
It is one of three EFSCAN excursion guides

developed for Central Australia, including the:

- Alice Springs Community Garden Excursion Guide
- Solar Power in Alice Springs Excursion Guide

All three EFSCAN excursion guides are available electronically at http://www.alec.org.au/education_for_sustainability

Rachel OLeary
ALEC Project Officer



Clean Up Australia Day

ALEC, Ilparpa Claypans Lovers and Alice Springs 4WD Club joined forces for Clean Up Australia Day





THE HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF STORING WATER IN PLASTIC

Did you know that many plastic water bottles leach compounds that mimic the human hormone oestrogen?

Whilst previous research has focused on plastics containing BPA (bisphenol-a), other research is finding that synthetic oestrogen is leached from non-BPA plastic bottles as well, such as common PET bottles (Bittner et al, 2014; Yang et al, 2011). A study by Wagner and Oehlmann (2010) found that estrogenic activity was three times higher in mineral water packaged in PET plastic bottles compared to glass bottles.

The same researchers earlier grew New Zealand mud snails, which are sensitive to oestrogen in water. They reported that female snails reproduced twice as fast in plastic bottles compared to glass-grown snails. Another study found that drinking cold water from polycarbonate bottles (found in most office water coolers) after one week increased the levels of urinary BPA detected in urine samples by more than two-thirds (Carwile et al., 2009).

Why should we be worried about drinking oestrogen infused water? Studies have shown that oestrogen activity acts as an 'endocrine-disruptor' in mammals, which can lead to early onset sexual maturation, decreased sperm counts, obesity and reproductive cancers (Bittner et al, 2014).

In particular, bottles that are heated can leach higher levels of synthetic oestrogen (Bittner et al., 2014). I think it is safe to conclude that for us here in Alice Springs with our hot climate, plastic water bottles are not ideal drinking vessels.

The good news is it doesn't take much effort to make some simple changes to minimise plastic for our drinking water. Investing in a stainless steel bottle is not only beneficial for your health, but it can also be recycled at the end of its useful

life. If this isn't within your budget, a glass drink bottle (or even a glass jar for the retro look) is a cheaper alternative!

For offices and homes currently using plastic water coolers, consider investing in a ceramic or glass based cooler. Another simple tip is to leave a glass or ceramic jug full of water on the bench top, which allows the chlorine in the water to evaporate, resulting in better tasting water. Here's to enjoying water just as nature intended.

References:

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Rachel OLeary
ALEC Project Officer



Australia's First Nations form new alliance for renewable energy

Representatives from First Nations communities across Australia have formed a renewable energy alliance to help reduce the burden of high energy bills and break the cycle of poverty. Announced as an outcome of this week's Community Energy Congress, the First Nations Renewable Energy Alliance aims to lobby government and to partner with private enterprise and other community energy alliances to support a transition to renewable energy.

More than 25 Australian First Nations delegates attended the congress, sharing stories of their experiences and holding discussions to workshop issues around the delivery of renewable energy to First Nations communities. A spokeswoman for the representatives said there was concern about "tactics that have been employed by some of the big energy providers shutting renewable energy out of communities". Currently, some communities are seeing power bills as high as \$5000 each quarter due to the reliance on costly fossil-fuel technology like diesel generators.

Three international First Nations speakers gave the Australian representatives inspiration for the task ahead. Chief Gordon Planes from the T'Souke Nation in British Columbia, Canada, shared his experiences and knowledge. The T'Souke implemented a solar installation in 2009 comprising solar hot water systems for up to 40 homes in the community, and solar PV systems on community buildings.

The energy generated is use to provide power, top-up battery storage in the event of the mains grid hydro power failing, and some excess power is also sold to the energy authority. The community has also installed electric vehicle charging for two community EV cars and an electric bicycle, and instigated a comprehensive energy efficiency program. In addition to creating a greater degree of energy sovereignty for the

community, the solar has also become an eco-tourism attraction.

Soren Hermansen from Samso Island, Denmark was also a key part of the discussions around self-determination and self-governance for First Nations people. His community is powered 100 per cent by renewable energy, the first in Denmark to achieve the milestone. Melina Laboucon-Massimo from the Lubicon Lake band of the Cree people in Alberta, Canada, also spoke. Her community is in the heart of the Peace River oil sands development area. It has gone down the path of solar energy, starting with the Piitapan Solar Project, a 20.8kW renewable energy installation that powers the health centre.

The three international First Nations representatives committed to supporting the new alliance through further strengthening and growing international networks and relations. 360 Energy Group has pledged \$10,000 in financial support and the use of its office space and other resources to help get the alliance up and running.

The Alliance has established a steering committee of seven First Nations members to progress actions and relationships with experts and other community energy organisations throughout Australia and across the world. Delegates at the event included members of the Euahlyia Nation, Goodooga NSW; Ngalia Nation, Leonora WA; Yidinji, Mbarbarum and Njadon Nations, Cairns QLD; Nyemba Nation, Brewarrina NSW; Wongathar Nation, Kalgoorlie WA; Dadaway Nation, Kimberley WA; Yanyuwa and Garrawa, Boorooloola NT; Murriwarri Nation, Weilmoringle NSW; Noongnar Nation, Perth WA; Tjapawrung, Brabrooloong and Krauatungulung Clans, Victoria.

<http://www.thefifthestate.com.au/energy-lead/australias-first-nations-form-new-alliance-for-renewable-energy/89206>



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Alice Springs

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Donate \$100 a month each year, or contribute a one off \$1000 tax deductible donation. 100 supporters will provide the ongoing essential operating funds of ALEC. https://aridlands.nationbuilder.com/desert_defenders

Become a Desert Defender:

Desert Defenders give monthly or one off tax deductible donations that provide critical funds to support ALEC programs and campaigns.

https://aridlands.nationbuilder.com/desert_defenders

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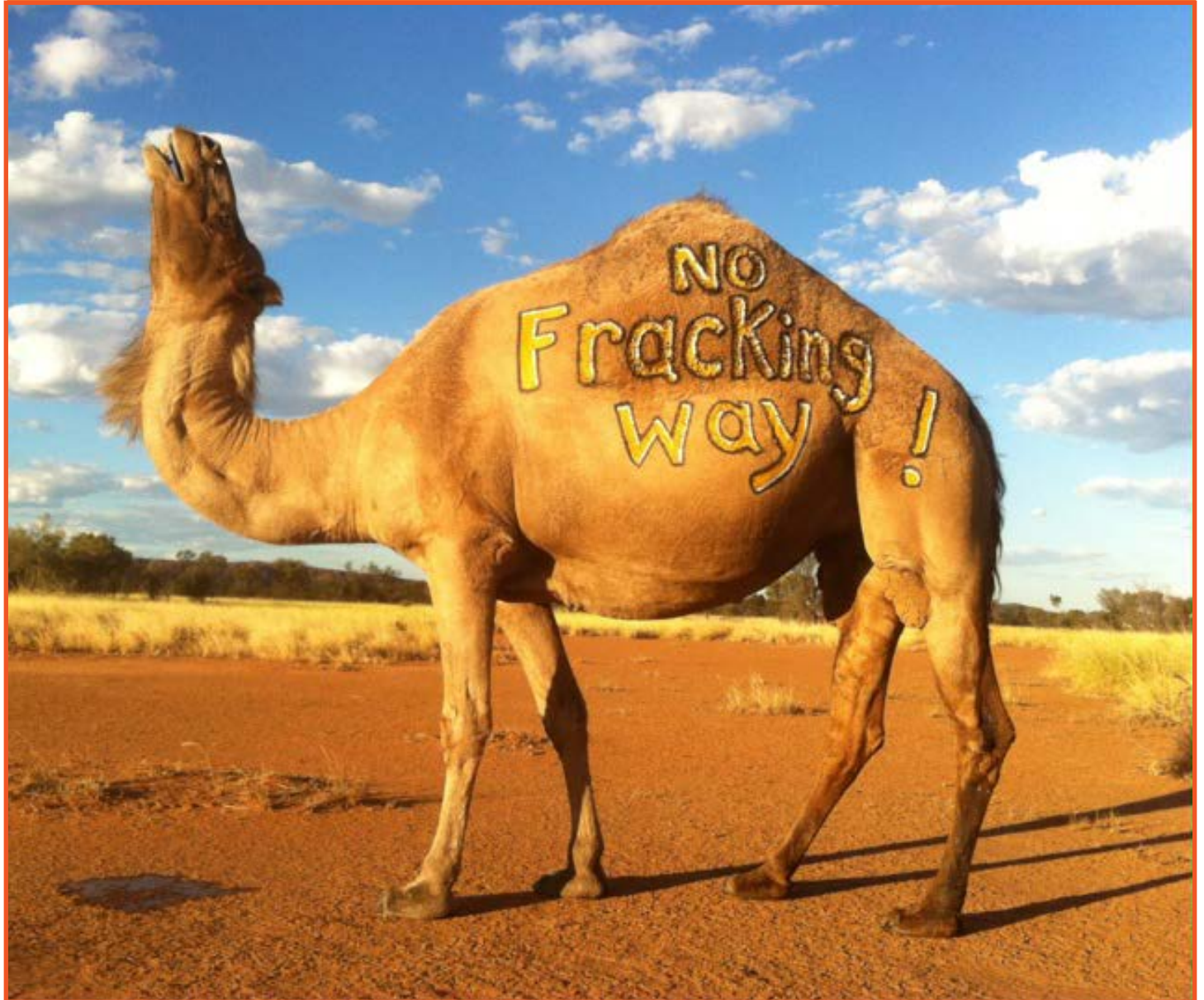
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